



43 | \$2.25 US  
\$3.25 CAN  
JUNE 98

# STARMAN



FEATURING THE

## JLA



ROBINSON  
HARRIS

VON GRAWBADGER



# KNIGHT'S PAST















HOW LONG DID IT TAKE YOU TO AMASS ALL THIS?

I HAD SOME IN A LOCK-UP. OVERSTOCK FROM MY OLD STORE.



AND THEN AS SOON AS I KNEW I WAS GOING TO HAVE TO START AGAIN, I BEGAN COLLECTING. THE STORE WAS INSURED...THAT HELPED, OF COURSE, ALTHOUGH YOU NEVER GET BACK EVERYTHING YOU LOSE.

WHAT ABOUT GETTING THE STORE ITSELF?



THAT'S THE THING, POP. YOU REMEMBER HOW DIAN BELMONT GAVE ME THE MONEY TO BUY THIS STORE?

WELL, IT'S MINE. FROM FLOOR TO CEILING. THIS ISN'T JUST A LEASE. I OWN A PIECE OF OPAL.

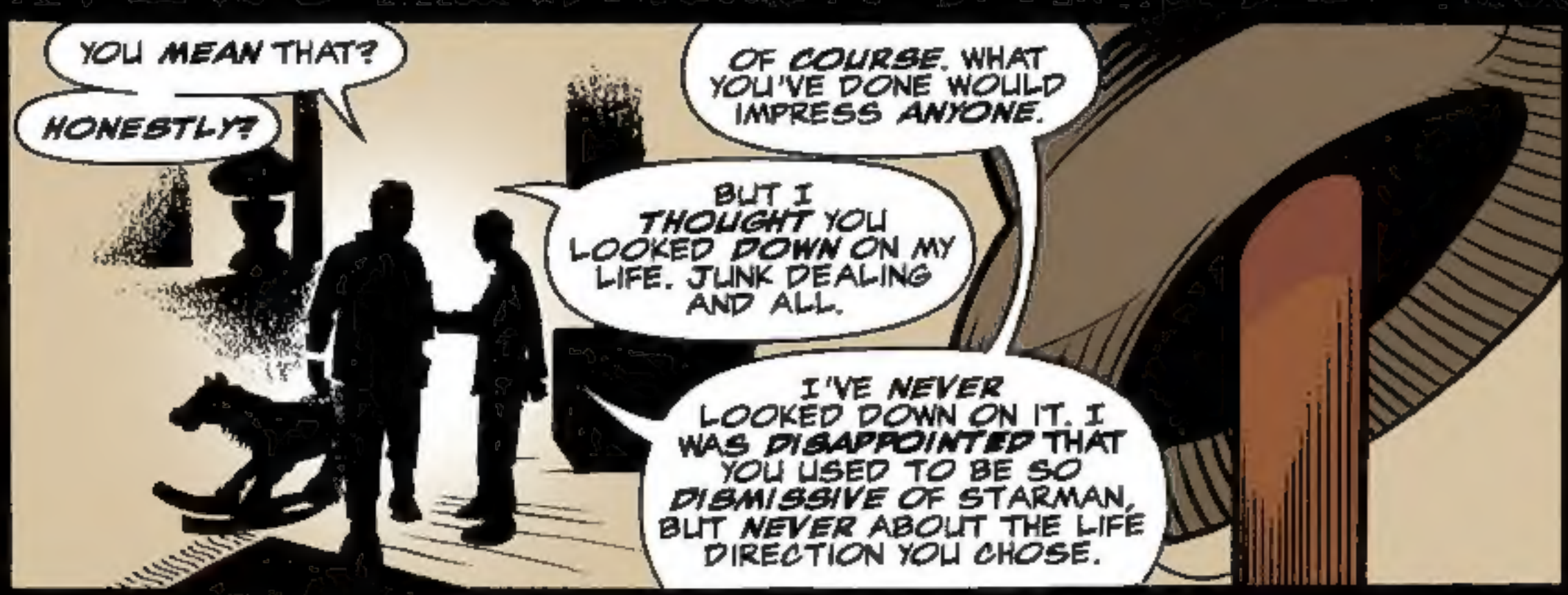
WHAT ABOUT THE FLOORS ABOVE, ARE YOU GOING TO RENT THEM OUT?



NO, THERE'S ROOM UP THERE FOR STORAGE. AND THEN MORE ROOM WHERE I CAN LIVE.

WHICH MEANS I'M NOT PAYING A LANDLORD ANYMORE. WHICH MEANS I'M SAVING MONEY THAT WAY.

THIS IS WONDERFUL, JACK.



YOU MEAN THAT? HONESTLY?

OF COURSE. WHAT YOU'VE DONE WOULD IMPRESS ANYONE.

BUT I THOUGHT YOU LOOKED DOWN ON MY LIFE. JUNK DEALING AND ALL.

I'VE NEVER LOOKED DOWN ON IT. I WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT YOU USED TO BE SO DISMISSIVE OF STARMAN, BUT NEVER ABOUT THE LIFE DIRECTION YOU CHOSE.





IT WAS CLEAR  
YOU WERE NEVER GOING  
TO BE A ROCKET  
SCIENTIST.

AH WELL,  
WHILE WE'RE  
ON THAT  
SUBJECT...

THE  
DIRECTION  
OF YOUR  
LIFE?

NO, ROCKET  
SCIENCE.

YES?

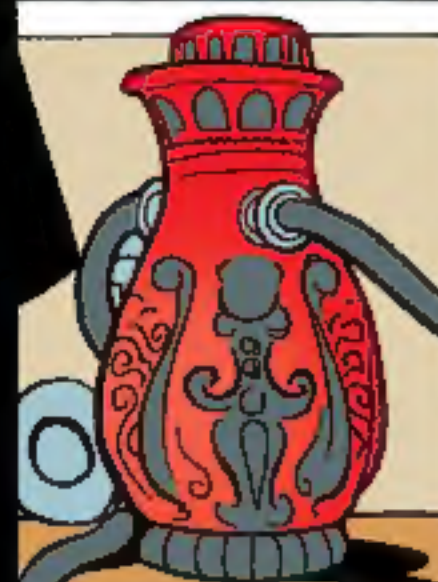
HOW ARE  
THINGS GOING?  
FINDING ME A  
ROCKET.

YOU WERE  
SERIOUS  
ABOUT THAT?

SERIOUS AS  
A GRAVE.

I GOTTA GO  
INTO OUTER  
SPACE.

AND I  
NEED A  
ROCKET  
SHIP TO  
DO IT.





AND THEN?

I EXPLAINED IT ALL AGAIN...THE WHOLE STORY UP TO THAT POINT...

...HOW SADIE, MY GIRLFRIEND, WAS ACTUALLY **JAYNE PAYTON**, THE SISTER OF **WILL PAYTON**, THE STARMAN BEFORE ME AND DAVID. HOW SHE CAME TO OPAL AND MET UP WITH ME IN THE HOPE THAT I'D GO INTO SPACE TO FIND HER BROTHER WHO SHE'S CONVINCED IS STILL ALIVE.

AND WHAT DID YOUR FATHER SAY THEN?

HE WAS **QUIET**, SHADE. QUIET FOR A REALLY LONG TIME. GOD, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. IT WAS LIKE I WAS **SIXTEEN** AGAIN, AND I'D ASKED TO **BORROW** THE CAR FOR THE NIGHT.

BUT THEN HE **TURNS** TO ME AFTER THIS LONG SILENCE AND HE **SIMPLY** SAYS...

"...I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO."





IT WAS ONE OF THOSE FATHER-SUPERHERO, SON-SUPERHERO THINGS. MY DAD LOOKED AT ME WITH A "BOY, YOU HAVE BECOME A MAN" LOOK.

AND THAT WAS THAT.

THEN WHAT?

HE CALLED JAY GARRICK. JAY CALLED THE MODERN FLASH.

THE FLASH TALKED TO HIS TEAM. GOT ME THE CLEARANCE AND PRESTO-CHANGE-O I'M GOING TO MEET THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.

THAT MUST BE VERY EXCITING.

ERR, YEAH...



"I GUESS."

HI,  
JACK.

NOT SINCE  
SATURDAY. HOW  
YOU DOING,  
KYLE?

OR IS  
THAT A STUPID  
QUESTION?

NICE, QUAINT,  
ALMOST.

I'LL  
JUST STAND  
BACK AND  
LET YOU GUYS  
DO WHAT  
YOU DO.

YOU  
WANTED  
TO MEET  
THE J.L.A.,  
THIS IS  
HOW WE  
ALL MEET  
MAINLY.

I'VE BEEN  
YOU IN  
ACTION,  
JACK.

GIVEN THE CURRENT  
CIRCUMSTANCES, THE  
REST OF THE LEAGUE  
WOULDN'T OBJECT  
TO SEEING YOU IN  
ACTION, TOO.

BATS, H...  
H...HOW...

...ER...HOW'S IT  
HANGING?

SO, ARE  
YOU GOING  
TO HELP?

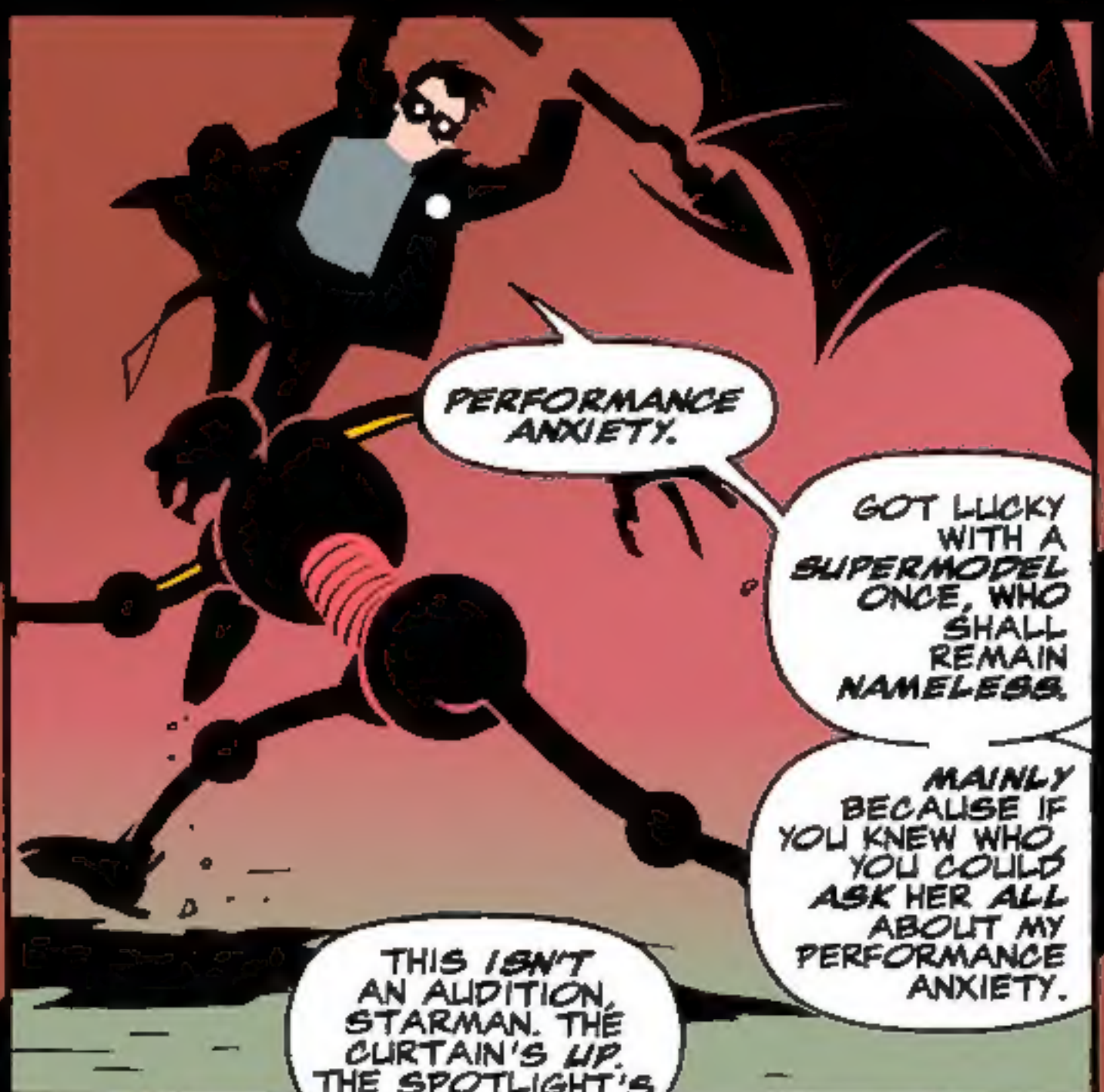
BOOM!





I'M NERVOUS, IS ALL.

NERVOUS? YOUR FATHER TOLD ME YOU WENT TO HELL AND THIS MAKES YOU NERVOUS?



PERFORMANCE ANXIETY.

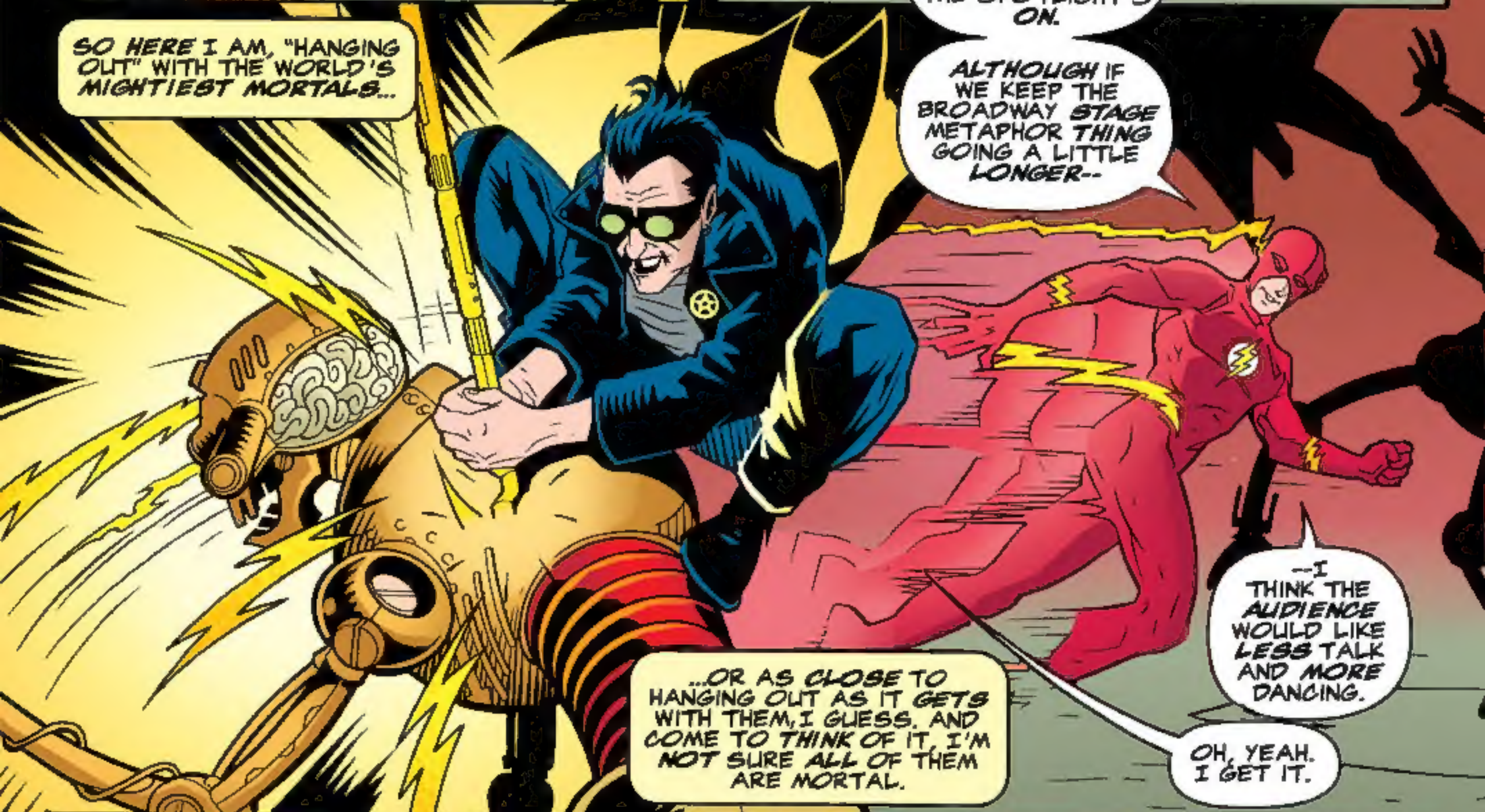
GOT LUCKY WITH A SUPERMODEL ONCE, WHO SHALL REMAIN NAMELESS.

MAINLY BECAUSE IF YOU KNEW WHO YOU COULD ASK HER ALL ABOUT MY PERFORMANCE ANXIETY.

THIS ISN'T AN AUDITION, STARMAN. THE CURTAIN'S UP. THE SPOTLIGHT'S ON.

ALTHOUGH IF WE KEEP THE BROADWAY STAGE METAPHOR THING GOING A LITTLE LONGER--

SO HERE I AM, "HANGING OUT" WITH THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTALS...



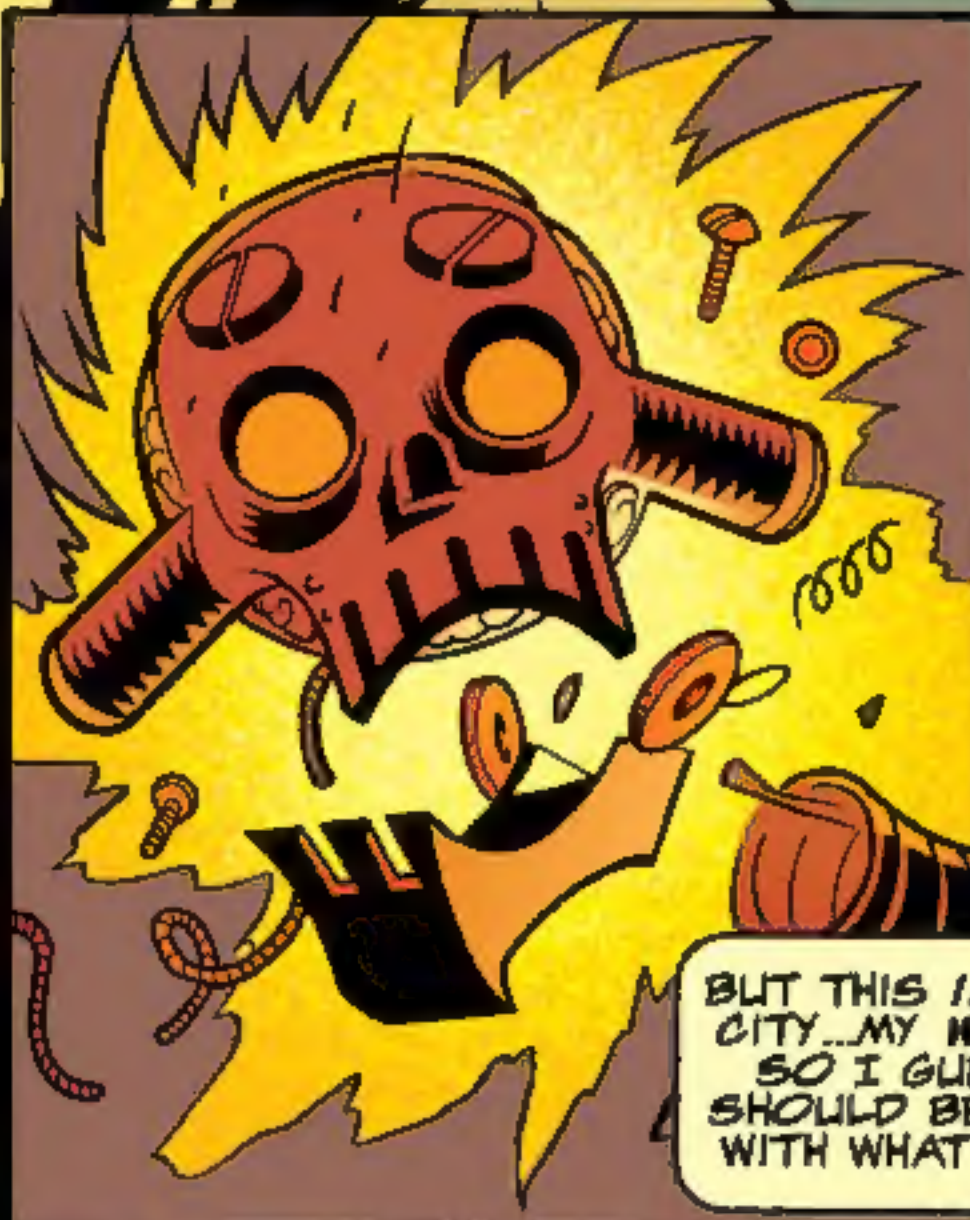
...OR AS CLOSE TO HANGING OUT AS IT GETS WITH THEM, I GUESS. AND COME TO THINK OF IT, I'M NOT SURE ALL OF THEM ARE MORTAL.

--I THINK THE AUDIENCE WOULD LIKE LESS TALK AND MORE DANCING.

OH, YEAH. I GET IT.



ME, I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE SAT AROUND DRINKING COFFEE.



BUT THIS ISN'T MY CITY...MY WORLD... SO I GUESS I SHOULD BE LUCKY WITH WHAT I GET.







ANYWAY, HERE I AM...  
FIGHTING...I'M FIGHTING...  
ERR...FRANKLY, I  
HAVEN'T GOT A CLUE  
WHAT I'M FIGHTING.

AND ALL I  
CAN THINK  
IS WOW.

WOW.

WOW.



WOW.



LATER.

...AND THAT'S THE  
SITUATION. I'M GOING  
INTO SPACE TO FIND  
WILL PAYTON. ONE OF  
OUR OWN.



BUT THIS IS A  
STREAMLINED J.L.A. IT'S  
OUR POWERS THAT MAKE  
US WHAT WE ARE. ANY  
SPACECRAFTS ARE FOR US  
TO USE. WE DON'T HAVE  
SPARES.

I'M SORRY,  
JACK. WE  
REMEMBER  
PAYTON... SOME  
OF US DO.  
HELL, I'D GO  
INTO SPACE  
WITH YOU IF I  
COULD BE  
CERTAIN HE  
WAS OUT  
THERE.

THE FLASH  
HAS A POINT,  
JACK. IT IS KIND  
OF VAGUE, DON'T  
YOU THINK?

ALL THIS BECAUSE  
YOUR GIRLFRIEND  
"FEELS" HER BROTHER  
IS STILL ALIVE.


WHAT CAN I  
SAY? I'M A NUT.  
MY HONEY HAS A  
GUT FEELING, AND  
I'M READY TO  
PLAY TOM  
CORBETT.

YEAH,  
WELL...

I'D  
BETTER  
SPLIT.







AND THAT WAS THAT. NO FINAL WITTY QUIP. NO SNIDE DIG AT BATMAN'S DARKNESS.

THAT BOTHERS YOU?

IT...MADE ME THINK. IT MADE ME FEEL LONELY. I DUNNO. FOOLISH. SECOND-RATE.

ANYWAY, THE UPSHOT IS THAT I CAN'T GET A ROCKET FROM THEM.

SO WHAT NOW?

I'LL TRY OTHER PLACES. SOMETHING WILL COME UP.

YOU'RE CERTAIN YOUR BROTHER IS ALIVE OUT IN SPACE?

I'M POSITIVE. SOMETHING TELLS ME HE'S ALIVE. DEFINITELY, YES. ALIVE, YES. BUT HE'S SAD...MAYBE HE'S EVEN IN PAIN.

LOOK, I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT YOUR BROTHER. I KNOW HE WAS STARMAN. I KNOW HE MET MY BROTHER DURING THE TIME MY DAD WAS AWAY.

AND I KNOW HE DIED FIGHTING ECLIPSO IN SPACE. AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT THE WORLD BELIEVES.

DID YOU TELL THIS TO THE JUSTICE LEAGUE?

YEAH. PROBLEM IS, WITH THEIR OWN SUPERHUMAN EYES, THEY ALL SAW YOUR BROTHER DIE.

IT'S KIND OF HARD CONVINCING THEM OTHERWISE. ESPECIALLY WHEN THE ONLY PROOF IS THAT YOU HAVE A "FEELING."

DID YOU TELL THEM I WAS WILL'S SISTER?

YOU COULD HAVE BEEN WILL'S FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST. IT WOULDN'T HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE.





BUT YOU  
BELIEVE ME,  
JACK?

I KNOW I  
LOVE YOU. I  
KNOW THIS WILL  
MAKE YOU  
HAPPY.

AND CHARITY,  
THE FORTUNE  
TELLER, TOLD ME  
I'D GO INTO SPACE.  
IF IT'S MY DESTINY  
I'M NOT GOING TO  
FIGHT IT.

I FEEL BAD  
THAT IF YOU GO  
IT WILL BE SOON  
AFTER OPENING  
YOUR NEW  
STORE.

YEAH, WELL,  
THAT'S SOMETHING  
I WANTED TO TALK  
TO YOU ABOUT.

EVEN  
THOUGH YOU'RE AN  
ARTIST YOU'VE BEEN  
WORKING IN COFFEE  
BARS AND NIGHT  
CLUBS AND PLACES  
SINCE COMING  
TO OPAL.

I'VE  
BEEN DOING  
MY ART IN THE  
DAYTIME.

I WAS THINKING  
MAYBE I COULD  
OFFER YOU A BETTER  
WAY TO EARN MONEY.  
AND MORE FLEXIBLE  
HOURS FOR WHEN  
THE MUSE STRIKES  
YOU.

IF I'M GONE  
I'LL NEED  
SOMEONE TO  
WATCH THE  
STORE...



"...YOU'D BE PERFECT."

SADIE, WHY ARE WE DOING THIS? HERE, NOW. NOT THAT I'M GONNA STOP, BUT...

...ARE YOU WITH ME NOW 'CAUSE OF WHO I AM, OR BECAUSE OF WHAT I'M GOING TO DO FOR YOU?

DO YOU LOVE ME, JACK?

I WOULDN'T BE TRYING TO SCAM A ROCKET IF I DIDN'T.

I LOVE YOU, SADIE FALK...OR JAYNE SADIE PAYTON OR WHATEVER I SHOULD CALL YOU.

AND I LOVE YOU, JACK. WE'RE HERE, NOW, BECAUSE I LOVE YOU.

AND WHAT'S MORE, IF YOU DO THIS FOR ME...GO INTO THE UNKNOWN TO FIND MY BROTHER...

...I'LL LOVE YOU FOREVER.



OH, HOW WONDERFUL.

LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A SAUCY FRENCH POSTCARD.

JEEPERSS!

I SHALL AVERT MY EYES. YOUR LADY FRIEND DESERVES SOME SMALL CONSIDERATION. AND THE SIGHT OF ALL YOUR TATTOOS MIGHT PROMPT ME TO GET ONE.

SHADE. JEEZUS. DON'T YOU EVER KNOCK? CAN'T YOU ACT LIKE A HUMAN BEING?

AND I KNOW I SHOULD REGRET IT...IN TWO OR THREE HUNDRED YEARS.

YOU CAN'T DO IT, CAN YOU? YOU CAN'T ACT OR TALK LIKE A NORMAL HUMAN BEING.

PERHAPS NOT, MY FRUSTRATED, INTERRUPTED YOUNG FRIEND. BUT AT LEAST I ACT.

MEANING?

WHILE YOU HAVE BEEN DOING I DON'T LIKE TO THINK WHAT, I HAVE BEEN HUNTING.

I RECALLED AN ADVENTURE MY FRIEND BRIAN SAVAGE HAD MANY YEARS AGO.

THAT EXPLOIT INVOLVED AN INVENTOR. THE INVENTOR WAS CREATING A VEHICLE THAT MIGHT TRANSPORT HIM TO THE STARS.

A ROCKET?

THAT'S ONE WORD FOR IT, CERTAINLY.

AND I HAVE FOUND SUCH A THING, HERE WITHIN OPAL'S DAPPLED HEART.

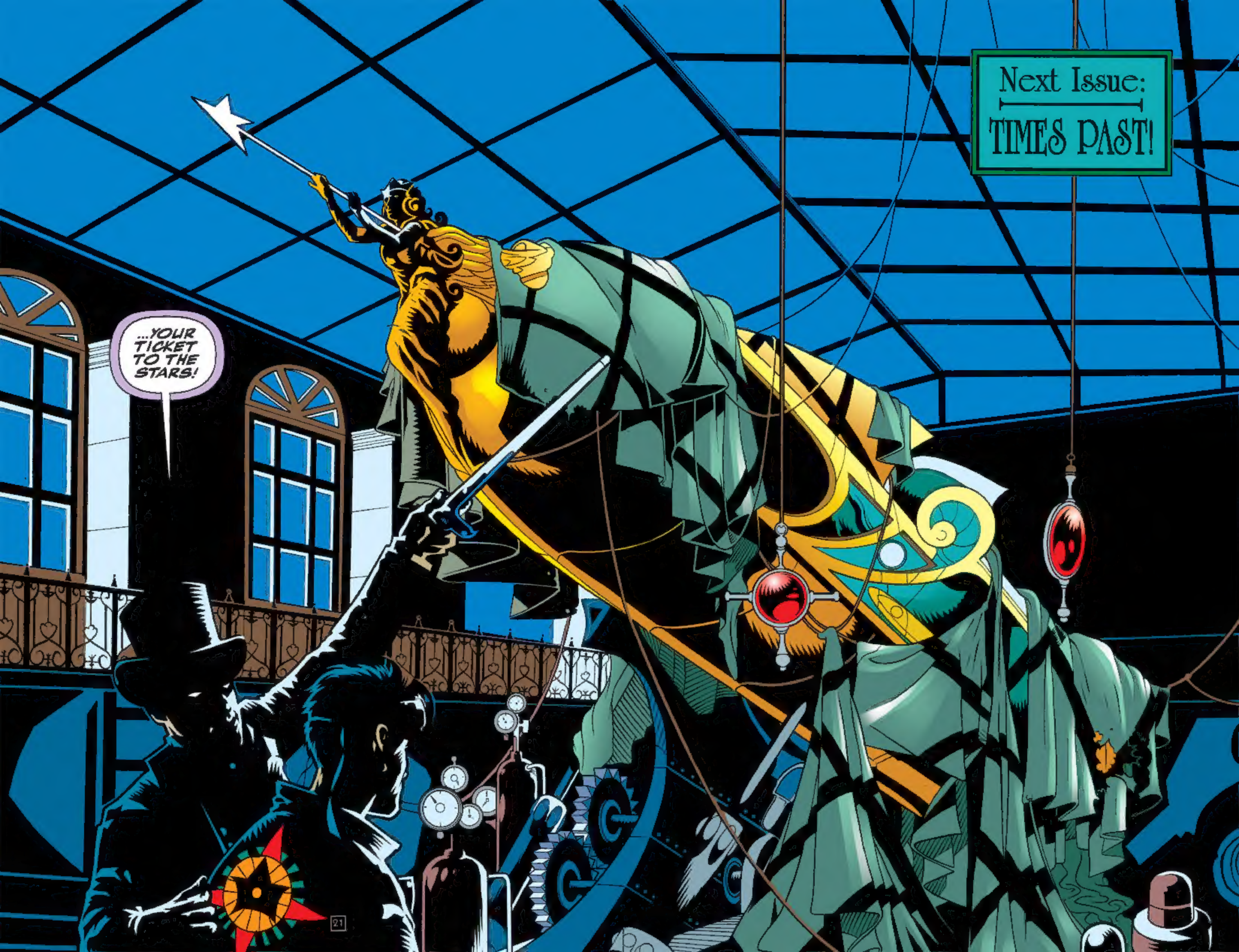






Next Issue:  
TIMES PAST!

...YOUR  
TICKET  
TO THE  
STARS!





# Deadman Wade

"THIS IS WHAT  
AWESOME  
LOOKS LIKE".

DCP